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PGDE Secondary Education

at Moray House School of
Education and Sport



Steve McLeister | November 2025

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Secondary Teaching

- Why teaching?
- The PGDE Programme at MHSES
- What we are looking for?



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Why Secondary Teaching?



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PGDE: Moray House School of Education & Sport

- Help you inspire the next generation
- 175 years of preparing teachers
- 1st for Education in Scotland



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PGDE Programme

- 36 Week Programme
 - 18 Weeks in University
 - 18 Weeks in Schools
- Starts late August
- Finishes early June
- 60 credits at Masters level



PGDE Programme

- 3 placements
- Placement based on your home address
- Commute time - 90 minutes
- 6 Partner Local Authorities
 - City of Edinburgh
 - Mid, West, East Lothian
 - Scottish Borders
 - Fife



Typical Week on PGDE at Moray House

	Monday	AM: Lectures Exploring key themes PM: Professional Studies Cross discipline workshops, key themes & inquiry
	Tuesday	Curriculum & Pedagogy Subject specific workshops
	Wednesday	Curriculum & Pedagogy Subject specific workshops
	Thursday	Reading & Self-study Preparation for workshops, seminars and lectures
	Friday	Curriculum plus courses A limited selection of enhancement courses.



What Are We Looking For?

- Values
- Interpersonal skills
- Intrapersonal skills
- Other qualities and attributes



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What is the best thing about your teaching programme at Moray House?

Learning from the very supportive, experienced tutors and being a part of a diverse, friendly cohort of other students.

Rebecca, PGDE Secondary (Chemistry and Physics)



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Undergraduate Admissions

College of Arts Humanities
and Social Sciences



James McClintock | November 2025

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PGDE – How to Apply

- Applications are made through UCAS Undergraduate portal. The UCAS deadline for equal consideration is 14th January
- Some secondary subjects may remain open beyond this deadline
- Apply to up to 5 institutions simultaneously
- You cannot apply to the University of Edinburgh directly



PGDE - Entry requirements

- A UK undergraduate degree or its international equivalent
 - For PGDE Secondary, you must have at least 80 credits in the subject you wish to teach. Some subjects also have additional requirements.
- SCQF level 6 English qualification
 - SQA Higher English at grade C
 - GCSE English (Language) and English Literature both at C
- SCQF level 5 Mathematics qualification
 - SQA National 5 Mathematics at grade C/4
 - GCSE Mathematics at grade C/4
- See Degree Finder for more detailed information:

<https://education-sport.ed.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-taught-degrees/pgde>



PGDE Secondary – Dual qualified status

- It is possible to become ‘dual qualified’ in two PGDE secondary subjects – this means you could teach both at secondary level
- Must fully meet entry requirements for both subjects, including having 80 credits in each subject
- Available combinations can be found on our website:
 - <https://education-sport.ed.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-taught-degrees/pgde/apply>



PGDE – Personal Statement

- Why do you want to teach?
- Work experience with secondary-aged pupils
- Reflection on working with children and young people
- Understanding of the role of a teacher
- Knowledge of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence
- Transferrable skills and outside interests



PGDE – Reference

Can be:

- Academic – University-based
- School experience
- Relevant Employment
- Relevant voluntary organisations



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PGDE – Interviews

- The selection process involves a professional interview
- Interviews run from February onwards
- Applicants will be expected to reflect on their experiences relating to teaching
- Due to competition, we may be unable to shortlist all qualified applicants



PGDE – Contacts

CAHSS Undergraduate Admissions

- Phone: 0131 650 3565
- Email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk



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Hear From Our Alumni



November 2024

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Contact details for follow-up questions

- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk





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Thank you

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